



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA Declares Disaster in San Bernardino County

Sacramento, CA – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today declared a disaster due to damage caused by the Sawtooth Complex Fire which started on July 9 and continued to July 18, 2006. Preston's action responded to a July 20, 2006 request from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The declaration covers **San Bernardino County**, the neighboring California counties of **Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange** and **Riverside**, the neighboring Arizona counties of **La Paz and Mohave**, and **Clark County** in Nevada

According to J. Adalberto Quijada, SBA's Santa Ana District Director, low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the wildfires. "SBA Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the following SBA Disaster Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Quijada said. The center will be open on the following days and times:

Yucca Valley
Yucca Valley Community Center
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Tuesdays through Fridays 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Saturdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Beginning Saturday, July 29, 2006

"Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property," said Quijada. Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

"In addition, for small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage," Quijada added.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling **toll-free (800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The **filing deadline** to return applications for property damage is **September 25, 2006**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **April 27, 2007**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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